#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS GALVESTON DIVISION

PAC-VAN, INC.,	8	
Plaintiff	§	
	§	
<b>v.</b>	§ CIVIL ACTION NO	
	§	
CHS, INC. d/b/a CHS COOPERATIVES,	§	
Defendant	§	

### NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441(a) (DIVERSITY)

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Defendant CHS, Inc. d/b/a CHS Cooperatives ("CHS") hereby petitions this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1446 for removal, on the basis of diversity jurisdiction, to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Galveston Division, of the action styled *Pac-Van*, *Inc. v. CHS*, *Inc. d/b/a CHS Cooperatives*, Cause No. 12-CV-2248, currently pending in the 212<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Galveston County, Texas (the "State Court case") and in support thereof would respectfully show this Court as follows:

#### I. FACTS

1. Plaintiff filed the State Court case on October 17, 2012, seeking a declaratory judgment regarding Defendant's alleged duty to defend and indemnify Plaintiff in connection with the underlying lawsuit: *Cause No. 10-CV-1500; Charles Vastine v. Lee Strube, Tanya Koch and Pac-Van, Inc.* in the 405<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Galveston County, Texas. The underlying case was filed in the 405<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Galveston County. Plaintiff has also asserted causes of action for breach of

contract and negligence. Defendant denies that there has been any breach of a duty to defend or indemnify Plaintiff.

- 2. Plaintiff is seeking damages in excess of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs. Plaintiff's petition states "As a result of Defendant's breach, Plaintiff incurred damages in the way of settlement payments (\$172,500.00), attorney's fees and expenses (\$29,786.86), mediation fees (\$700), expenses and court costs from the *Vastine* lawsuit." Petition at VII.
- 3. CHS first received notice of the filing of Plaintiff's Original Petition and Citation on October 26, 2012, when service was accomplished on it. CHS filed its Original Answer on November 16, 2012. A true and correct copy of all pleadings, process, orders, and correspondence served in this action is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference. CHS has filed this notice of removal within the time prescribed by 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).
  - 4. Plaintiff has made a jury demand in the State Court case.
- 5. Complete diversity exists between the Plaintiff and Defendant now and so existed on the date of filing of the State Court case.
- 6. CHS is an insurance company incorporated in the State of Minnesota with its statutory home office in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. CHS is a citizen of the State of Minnesota and not the State of Texas.
  - 7. Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of the State of Indiana.
- 8. This case also satisfies the \$75,000.00 minimum amount in controversy requirement for diversity jurisdiction. See 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). Plaintiff specifically pleads that it is suing for damages in excess of \$202,986.86. Petition at ¶ VII.

#### II. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- 9. This action is a civil action which may be removed to this Court by CHS pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and 1332(a) in that it is between citizens of different states; it is a civil action wherein the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interests and costs; and CHS is not a citizen of the State of Texas.
- Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), written notice of filing of this Notice will 10. be given to all adverse parties promptly after the filing of this Notice.
- Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), a true and correct copy of this Notice 11. will be filed with the clerk of the 405<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Galveston County, Texas promptly after the filing of this Notice.
  - 12. Attached hereto and incorporated herein, are the following items:

A true and correct copy of all pleadings, process, and orders served Exhibit A: in this action.

Exhibit B: State Court docket sheet.

Exhibit C: List of all counsel of record.

Exhibit D: Index of all documents filed with the Court.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant CHS, Inc. d/b/a CHS Cooperatives requests that this action be removed from the 405<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Galveston County, Texas to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Galveston Division, and that this Court enter such further orders as may be necessary and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

HANNA & PLAUT, L.L.P. 211 E. Seventh Street, Suite 600 Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone:

(512) 472-7700

Facsimile:

(512) 472-0205

By: /s/ Catherine L. Hanna

Catherine L. Hanna State Bar No. 08918280 Southern District ID: 13577

Attorney-in-Charge Eric S. Peabody

State Bar No. 00789539 Southern District ID: 28229

#### ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

In accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures, I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served November 20, 2012, by facsimile as follows:

#### *Via facsimile (713) 337-0760*

Karen M. Alvarado David E. Brothers Two Memorial City Plaza 820 Gessner, Suite 1075 Houston, Texas 77024

/s/ Catherine L. Hanna

Catherine L. Hanna

## EXHIBIT "A"

Filed 12 November 16 A11:44 Doryn Danner Glenn District Clerk Galveston District

#### **CAUSE NO. 12-CV-2248**

PAC-VAN, INC. Plaintiff,	<u>ş</u> .	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
<b>v</b> ,	9 9 9	GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS
CHS, INC. D/B/A CHS COOPERATIVES Defendant.	§ §	212th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### **DEFENDANT'S ORIGINAL ANSWER**

### TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COME NOW CHS Inc. d/b/a CHS Cooperatives, Defendant in the above-entitled and numbered cause, and file this its Original Answer and General Denial to Plaintiff's Original Petition, and would respectfully show the Court the following:

#### I. <u>GENERAL DENIAL</u>

Pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 92, Defendant denies each and every, all and singular, the allegations set forth in Plaintiff's Original Petition and demand strict proof thereof at the final trial of this case.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant respectfully prays that upon final hearing hereof, Plaintiff take nothing by his suit, that Defendant be discharged with their costs; and that Defendant have such other and further relief to which it may be justly entitled.

#### Respectfully submitted,

HANNA & PLAUT, L.L.P.
The Littlefield Building
106 East Sixth Street, Suite 520
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: (512) 472-7700
Facsimile: (512) 472-0205

By:

Catherine L. Hanna State Bar No. 08918280 Eric S. Peabody State Bar No. 00789539

### ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been delivered by facsimile, on this 16th day of November, 2012 to:

Via facsimile (713) 337-0760

Karen M. Alvarado
David E. Brothers
Two Memorial City Plaza
820 Gessner, Suite 1075
Houston, Texas 77024

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Catherine L. Hanna

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Defendant's Original Answer

Page 2

#### CITATION

#### THE STATE OF TEXAS

PAC-VAN, INC. VS. CHS, INC.,D/B/A CHS COOPERATIVES

Cause No.: 12-CV-2248
212th District Court of Galveston County

12-DCI Cita

DCCH**es** Citation issuance -- Work Product



TO: CHS Inc., D/B/A CHS Cooperatives
Registered Agent CT Corporation Systems
350 N St Paul Street Suite 2900
Dallas TX 75201

GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days from the date you were served this citation and petition/motion, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said written answer may be filed by mailing same to: District Clerk's Office, 600 59th Street, Suite 4001, Galveston, Texas 77551-2388. The case is presently pending before the 212th District Court of Galveston County sitting in Galveston, Texas, and the ; Original Petition - OCA was filed; October 17, 2012. It bears cause number 12-CV-2248 and see the attached petition/motion for named parties to the suit.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Galveston, Texas, on this the 18th day of October, 2012.

Issued at the request of:
Karen M Alvarado, Atty at Law
Brothers Sepulveda & Alvarado PC
Two Memorial City Plaza
820 Gessner Suite 1075
Houston TX 77024
SEE ATTACHED FORM



**Doryn Danner Glenn, District Clerk**Galveston County, Texas

By:

David R. Kaplan, Deputy

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Galveston District

## THE DISTRICT COURTS OF GALVESTON COUNTY CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT

be set for Thursdays following 90 days from	istrative purposes only. It shall be filed with the Parties all other parties to the action. All Status Conferences will the date of filing according to each Courts scheduled times
10 District Court - 9:00 A.M.	212 <sup>th</sup> District Court - 9:00 A.M.
56th District Court - 9:30 A.M.	405 District Court - 10:00 A.M.
122 <sup>nd</sup> District Court - 9:30 A.M.	ZVIVV ZAMA

## Notice of Status Conference Setting: Please calendar this event Date 01/17/2013 set in the 212th District Court

12-CV-2248 - 212th District Court

Pac-Van, Inc. vs. CHS, Inc.,d/b/a CHS Cooperatives

Name of Opposing Attorney, if known

David B. Brothers	Attorney Name
Attorney Bar No. 03084300	Attorney Bar No.
Attorney Address 820 Gessner, Suite 1075, Houston, TX 77024	Attorney Address
Attorney Phone No. 713/337-0750	Attorney Phone No
Attorney Fax No. 713/337-0760	Attorney Fax No.
accelerated disposition.  If discovery LEVEL 3 is requested, explain where the second	y. Attach additional sheets, if necessary.  // Estimated trial time
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Signature of Attorney	Buttle Date signed 10/23/12
Printed Name of Attorney: David E. Brothers	
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Name of Primary Attorney filing this form

212TH DISTRICT COURT
CASE SUMMARY
CASE NO. 12-CV-2248

Doryn Danner Glenn
CLERK DISTRICT COURT
FILED 9:51 AM
NOV 2 0 2012

Pac-Van, Inc. vs. CHS, Inc.,d/b/a CHS Cooperatives

GALVESTON COUNTY TEXAS

Location: 212th District Court

Judicial Officer: Criss, Susan

Piled on: 10/17/2012

DEPUTY

CASE INFORMATION

Case Type: Contract - Other

DATE

CASE ASSIGNMENT

**Current Case Assignment** 

Case Number Court Date Assigned Judicial Officer

12-CV-2248 212th District Court 10/17/2012 Criss, Susan

PARTY INFORMATION

Plaintiff

Pac-Van, Inc.

Lead Attorneys
Alvarado, Karen M.
Retained
713-337-0750(W)

Defendant

CHS, Inc.

Hanna, Catherine L. Retained 5124727700(W)

		3124/21/00(W)
DATE	EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT	INDEX
10/17/2012	Original Petition - OCA Party: Plaintiff Pac-Van, Inc. E-Filed.	
10/17/2012	Information Sheet - for Case Filing	
10/17/2012	Request for Service Fee paid for 1 Cit. @ 8.00,	
10/18/2012	Citation Issuance - Work Product Party: Defendant CHS, Inc. Service has been issued on 10/18/12, M Cit to Law firm as per Tyanne - Mr. Brothers Secretary	
10/24/2012	Information Sheet - for Case Filing	
11/16/2012	Original Answer Party: Defendant CHS, Inc.	
01/17/2013	Status Conference (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Criss, Susan)	
DATE	FINANCIAL INFORMATION	

Attorney Brothers, David E. Total Charges
Total Payments and Credits
Balance Due as of 11/20/2012

283.75 283.75 **0.00** 

#### Case 3:12-cv-00341 Document 1 Filed on 11/20/12 in TXSD Page 11 of 51

# 212TH DISTRICT COURT CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. 12-CV-2248

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#### No. 12CV2248

PAC-VAN, INC.	§ IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
vs.	§ GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS
CHS, INC. D/B/A CHS COOPERATIVES	9 §

#### Plaintiff's Original Petition

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, PAC-VAN, INC. ("Plaintiff"), Plaintiff, complaining of CHS, Inc., d/b/a
CHS Cooperatives ("Defendant"), Defendant, and respectfully shows the Court as follows:

#### I. Discovery Control Plan

This Petition is being filed under Level 2 of the Rule 190.1.

#### II. Parties

Plaintiff is an Indiana corporation doing business in the State of Texas and is a proper party to this lawsuit.

Defendant, CHS, Inc., d/b/a CHS Cooperatives, a Minnesota corporation doing business in the State of Texas may be served through their registered agent CT Corporation Systems, 350 N. St. Paul Street, Ste. 2900, Dallas, Texas 75201.

#### III. Venue & Jurisdiction

Venue is proper in Galveston County pursuant to the terms of the September 26, 2008 Master Lease Agreement and Rental Agreement ("Contract") between Plaintiff and Defendant [Ex. 1]. Specifically, the Contract (more fully described below) stipulates that Plaintiff and Defendant consent and submit to personal jurisdiction over them in any court in Galveston County. In addition, the terms provide that any claim or matter arising under or in connection with the Master Lease

Agreement or any Rental Agreement may be filed and adjudicated in any state or federal court in Galveston County, Texas. Further, venue is proper pursuant to Section 15.002 of the Texas Civil Practices & Remedies Code, because the underlying incident which forms the basis of this suit occurred in Galveston County, Texas, and Defendant does business in Galveston County, Texas.

Plaintiff seeks monetary damages within the jurisdictional limits of this Court.

#### IV. Facts of the Case

On May 28, 2010, non-party Charles Vastine filed Cause No. 10CV1500 styled Charles Vastine v. Lee Strube; Tanya Koch; and Pac-Van, Inc. in the 405th Judicial District Court of Galveston County, Texas against Pac-Van ("Vastine lawsuit") [Ex. 2]. Mr. Vastine's wife, Holly Vastine, later joined the lawsuit as a Plaintiff [Ex. 3]. Vastine, an employee of Defendant, alleged he suffered personal injuries when he fell through the floor in a work trailer leased from Plaintiff by Defendant. The lease between Plaintiff and Defendant was governed by the terms and conditions of the September 26, 2008 Master Lease Agreement and Rental Agreement between Plaintiff and Defendant.

The Contract at issue required that Defendant, at its own expense and at all times, maintain the leased equipment in good and safe condition. [Exh. 1]. Further, Defendant assumed the entire risk of loss or damage to the leased equipment. *Id.* 

The insurance paragraph of the Contract provided as follows:

INSURANCE: Lessee, at its own expense, shall insure for risks of loss or damage. Lessee must carry commercial general liability insurance insuring both Lessor and Lessee against loss. The general liability insurance amounts must not be less than \$1,000,000 bodily injury per person, \$1,000,000 bodily injury per occurrence, \$1,000,000 property damage per occurrence, and Lessor must be named as an additional insured. Lessee must carry fire, windstorm and extended coverage casualty insurance for the the agreed upon value of the leased equipment and Lessor

must be named as the loss payee. Lessee shall provide Lessor with a Certificate of Insurance documenting compliance with the insurance requirements as stipulated in this Master Lease Agreement. The Certificate must be received at the Lessor's Corporate Office, 2995 South Harding Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46225. The required insurance policy shall be procured with a company having an AM Best rating of no less than A-VI. Lessee shall require the insurance company providing the policy to endeavor to provide notice of any change at least 30 days prior to the effectiveness thereof.

As stated above, the Contract required that Defendant, at its own expense, carry commercial general liability insurance insuring both Lessor (Plaintiff) and Lessee (Defendant) against loss. The Contract specifically requires that "Lessee, at its expense, shall insure for risks of loss or damage." [Ex. 1]. The Contract also requires that the insurance policy name Plaintiff as an additional insured and that it not be less than \$1,000,000 bodily injury per person and \$1,000,000 per occurrence. In addition, Defendant was required to provide Plaintiff with a Certificate of Insurance documenting compliance with the insurance requirements as stipulated. As a result of the lawsuit referenced above, Pac-Van, Inc. was required to defend Mr. Vastine's legal accusations against it. Plaintiff tendered to Defendant the underlying lawsuit and demanded a legal defense and coverage for Mr. Vastine's claims for damages. In the end, it was determined that Defendant did not comply with its contractual obligations and did not procure an insurance policy to protect Plaintiff from the underlying lawsuit. Further, Defendant declined to provide a defense or protection, regardless of the presence or absence of insurance coverage, for Plaintiff from the underlying lawsuit [Ex 4]. Therefore, Plaintiff was forced to defend itself, to incur a substantial sum of money in attorney's fees and expenses, and to settle the underlying lawsuit for a reasonable amount to avoid the risk of trial.

#### V. Breach of Contract

As previously stated, Defendant was responsible for maintaining the trailer in good and proper working order. By virtue of the allegations made in the *Vastine* lawsuit, it is apparent that the Defendant failed to comply with the stated terms of the contract. Defendant knew about the need for maintenance, particularly the floor of the trailer, yet refused to repair the floor in compliance with the contract. As a direct result of Defendant's failure to comply with the terms of the contract, Mr. Vastine was injured and the Plaintiff was sued. Defendant's breach of the contractual obligations has resulted in damages to this Plaintiff in excess of the jurisdictional limits of this court.

In addition, during the pendency of the *Vastine* lawsuit, Plaintiff made demands on Defendant and its insurance carrier to fulfill the obligations under the terms of the contract by providing Plaintiff a legal defense and insurance coverage/protection for the lawsuit. Defendant denied any responsibility for the *Vastine* matter despite its clear assumption of the maintenance and all risks associated with the trailer itself. Further, neither Defendant nor its insurance carrier provided to Plaintiff a legal defense and/or insurance coverage/protection for the underlying lawsuit. As a result of Defendant's breach of the terms and conditions of the contract, Plaintiff was required to defend itself, to incur a substantial sum of money in attorneys' fees and expenses, and to settle the underlying lawsuit for a reasonable amount to avoid the risk of trial. Defendant has not reimbursed Plaintiff for the settlement of the claims made by Mr. Vastine in direct contravention of its obligations under the Contract.

#### VI. Negligence

Pleading further, and in the alternative, as a term of the Contract, Defendant was responsible for maintaining the trailer in good and proper working order. Defendant negligently failed to do so resulting in the accident made the basis of the underlying lawsuit.

Further, Defendant negligently failed to fulfill its insurance obligations under the contract by not acquiring insurance coverage for Plaintiff per the express terms of the insurance paragraph of the Contract cited above.

#### VII. Damages

As a result of Defendant's breach, Plaintiff incurred damages in the way of settlement payments (\$172,500.00), attorney's fees and expenses (\$29,786.86), mediation fees (\$700.00), expenses and court costs from the *Vastine* lawsuit. Additionally, pursuant to the contract between CHS and Pac-Van, the prevailing party in a claim, dispute, or proceeding arising under or in connection with the lease contract, is entitled to recover all expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees. Further, under CPRC Sec. 38.001, Plaintiff is entitled to attorneys fees for Defendant's breach of contract. Therefore, Plaintiff further seeks reimbursement for the attorneys fees and expenses required to bring this action, pre-judgment interest, post judgment interest and costs of court as allowed by law.

### VIII. Pleading to the Court Only

### \*\*NOT TO BE READ TO THE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY\*\*

The real party in interest is The Hanover Insurance Company who is subrogated to the rights of Pac-Van, Inc. as of March 20, 2012, the date on which the Final Judgment in the underlying lawsuit was signed and entered.

#### IX. Prayer

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that Defendant be cited to appear and answer herein, and that upon final trial hereof, Plaintiff recovers from said Defendant actual damages, pre-judgment interest, post judgment interest and costs of court as allowed by law and all equitable relied to which Plaintiff may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

BROTHERS, SEVULVEDA & ALVARADO, P.C.

By:

Fax:

Karen M. Alvarado State Bar No. 11067050 David E. Brothers State Bar No. 03084300 Two Memorial City Plaza 820 Gessner, Suite 1075 Houston, Texas 77024

(713) 337-0750 (713) 337-0760

Attorneys for Pac-Van, Inc.

09/28/2008 14:85 FAX 8514616802

SUPPLY & KARKETING

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Pac-Vau, Im. 7700 South Freeway Port Worth, Taxes 76134 (\$17) 727-1075 Fix (\$17)-737-8089

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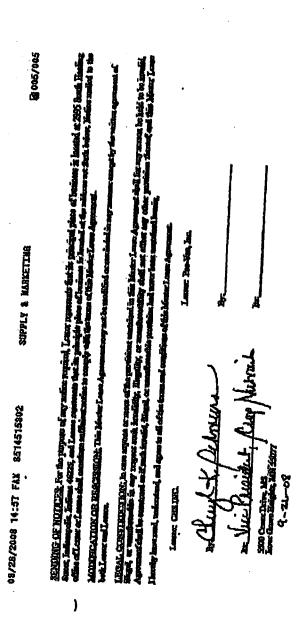
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CHARLES VASTINE

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LEE STRUBE; TANYA KOCH; AND FAC-VAN, INC.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

405 10 JUDICIAL DISTRICT

### PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

. TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Charles Vastine, Plaintiff, complaining Lee Strube; Tanya Koch; and Pac-Van, Inc. Defendants, and for cause of action would respectfully show the Court and jury the following:

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This Petition is being filed under Level 2 of Rule 190.1.

Л.

Plaintiff is a resident citizen of Dickerson, Galveston County, Texas.

Defendant, Lee Strube, is an individual who may be served with citation at his place of employment located at 770 S. Freeway, Ft. Worth, TX 76134.

Defendant, Tanya Koch, is an individual who may be served with citation at her place of employment located at 770 S. Freeway, Ft. Worth, TX 76134.

Defendant, Pac-Van, Inc., is an Indiana corporation doing business in the State of Texas for the purpose of monetary profit and may be served with citation by serving its registered agent for service, Corporation Service Company d/b/a CSC - Lawyers Incorporating Service Company, 211 E. 7th St., Suite 620, Austin, TX 78701.



Venue is proper in Galveston, Texas, pursuant to Section 15.002 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, because the incident which forms the basis of this suit occurred in Galveston County, Texas, and Defendant does business in Harris County, Texas.

The Court has Jurisdiction over this controversy because Plaintiff seeks damages within the jurisdictional limits of this Court.

#### IV.

On or about May 28, 2009, Plaintiff Charles Vastine suffered personal injury damages when he fell in a work trailer. The fall was attributable to the condition of the flooring. Specifically, the floor was structurally unsound and had degraded due to the presence of water/moisture. The work trailer had been inspected and dispatched to Plaintiff's work site by Defendants Lee Strube and Tanya Koch. Defendant Pac-Van, Inc. acknowledged that it owned the trailer at the time of the fall of Plaintiff. However, the condition of the trailer flooring, its readiness, its limitations and the implied and expressed representations of fitness (and use) were made by Defendants Strube and Koch. The flooring was unsuitable for its intended purposes and was in a state of disrepair when it was rented by to Plaintiff's employer. Defendant Pac-Van is liable for the acts and omissions of its employees under respondeat superior. Plaintiff also has a right to recovery from Defendants Strube and Koch and Defendant Pac-Van for violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, as the trailer failed to possess the implied and express characteristics of adequate flooring. The passive and active negligent acts and omissions of Defendants were one proximate cause of the injuries sustained by Plaintiff.

As a result of the fall Plaintiff suffered physical injuries that have necessitated surgery. As a result of Defendants negligent acts and omissions and subsequent injuries, Plaintiff seeks to

recover for past and future medical expenses; wage loss (and loss of earning capacity); past and future impairment; past and future pain and sufferings/mental anguish; and past and future disfigurement. Plaintiff also seeks to recover taxable court costs and attorney's fees as allowed under existing law as the wage loss and medical expenses are economic damages recoverable under the Texas DTPA.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that Defendants be cited to appear and answer herein, and that upon final trial hereof, Plaintiff recovers from said Defendants actual damages.

Respectfully submitted,

CRIACO & ASSOCIATES

Adam P. Criaco/C SBOT 05075770

519 N. Sam Houston Pkwy. E., Suite 500

Houston, TX 77060

Telephone: (713) 663-6600 Facsimile: (713) 663-7923

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

## THE DISTRICT COURTS OF GALVESTON COUNTY CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT

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Civil Citation.

KAR 6-15-10

## CITATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CASE NO. 10CV1500 - 405th District Court

#### CHARLES VASTINE

VS.

#### LEE STRUBE, ET AL

Issued To: LER STRUBE, 770 S. FREEWAY, FT. WORTH, TX 76134

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an Attorney. If you or your attorney does not file a written unswer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The ORIGINAL petition was filed on the 28<sup>TH</sup> day of MAY 2010 in cause number 10CV1500 pending before the 405<sup>TH</sup> District Court of Galveston County, Texas. See attached ORIGINAL Petition for named

The name and address of the Pro Se party or Attorney:
ADAM P. CRIACO
CRIACO & ASSOCIATES
519 N. SAM HOUSTON PKWY. E, SUITE 500
HOUSTON, TX 77060

The nature of the demand of the Plaintiff is shown by a true and correct copy of the ORIGINAL Petition attached to this citation.

If this citation is not served it shall be returned unserved.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of Court at Office, June 2, 2010 A.D.

A Status Conference is set for: 8/26/10 at 9:30 a.m.
Please refer to and complete the attached Status Conference Sheet. Upon completion, please return to Clerk of Court.

LATONIA D. WILSON, District Clerk, Galveston County, Texas, 600 59th Street, Suite 4001, Galveston, Texas 77551

	600 59" Street, Suite 4001, Galveston, Texas 775:
	By: Shelby Franco, Deputy Clerk
	OFFICER'S RETURN
Came to hand on the day of Executing Within the County of By delivering to t	the within the named Defendant by serving:
Each in person a true copy of this citation together	er with the accompanying copy of the petition, having first attached an and endorsed on such copy of citation the date of delivery.
•	Name of Officer or Authorized & Disinterested Person
Authorized & Disinterested person's Verification	
executed by him/her in the exact manner recited of Sworn to and subscribed before me, on the	in the return.
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas	day of

AUG. 3. 2011 11:44AM

CRIAGO & ASSOCIATES

NO. 6286 P. 7

## CRIACO & ASSOCIATES ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW

519 N. SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY E. - SUITE 500 - HOUSTON, TEXAS 77060-4051 TELEPHONE 713-663-6600 - FACSIMILE 713-663-7923

ADAM P. CRIACO
SOAD CHTRID TENONAL INJURY TRACLAW
TEXAS SOAD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

August 3, 2011

Ms, Latonia D. Wilson Galveston County District Clerk 600 59th St., Suite 4001 Galveston, TX 77551-2388

Re: Cause No. 10CV1500; Charles Vastine v. Les Strubs: Tanya Koch; and Pas-Van, Inc.; in the 405th Judicial District Court of Galveston County, Texas

Dear Madam:

Please file the enclosed document, detailed below, among the papers of the above-captioned cause, in your usual and customary manner.

### Plaintiff's Third Amended Original Petition

Please file-mark the enclosed copy of this letter and document acknowledging receipt and filing of same, and return the document to our office in the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Best personal regards,

Creaco"

Adam P. Criaco

APC/to



AUG. 3. 2011 11:44AM

CRIACO & ASSOCIATES

NO. 6286 P. 3

NO. 10CV1500

CHARLES VASTINE

V.

LEE STRUBE; TANYA KOCH; AND PAC-VAN, INC. In the district court of galveston county, texas

405th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

### PLAINTIFF'S THIRD AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Charles Vastine and Holly Vastine, Plaintiffs, complaining Lee Strube; Tanya Koch; and Pac-Van, Inc. Defendants, and for cause of action would respectfully show the Court and jury the following:

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This Petition is being filed under Level 2 of Rule 190.1.

n:

Plaintiff is a resident citizen of Dickerson, Galveston County, Texas.

Defendant, Lee Strube, has appeared and answered.

Defendant, Tanya Koch, has appeared and answered.

Defendant, Pac-Van, Inc., has appeared and answered.

m.

Venue is proper in Galveston, Texas, pursuant to Section 15.002 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, because the incident which forms the basis of this suit occurred in Galveston County, Texas, and Defendant does business in Harris County, Texas.

The Court has jurisdiction over this controversy because Plaintiffs seek damages within the jurisdictional limits of this Court.

AUG. 3. 2011 11:44AM

CRIACO & ASSOCIATES

NO. 6286 P. 4

IV.

On or about May 28, 2009, Plaintiff Charles Vastine suffered personal injury damages when he fall in a work trailer. The fall was attributable to the condition of the flooring. Specifically, the floor was structurally unsound and had degraded due to the presence of water/moisture. The work trailer had been inspected and dispatched to Plaintiff's work site by Defendants Lee Strube and Tanya Koch. Defendant Pac-Van, Inc. acknowledged that it owned the trailer at the time of the fall of Plaintiff. However, the condition of the trailer flooring, its readiness, its limitations and the implied and expressed representations of fitness (and use) were made by Defendants Strube and Koch. The flooring was unsuitable for its intended purposes and was in a state of disrepair when it was rented by to Plaintiff's employer. Defendant Pac-Van is liable for the acts and omissions of its employees under respondent superior. Plaintiff also has a right to recovery from Defendants Strube and Koch and Defendant Pac-Van as the trailer failed to possess the implied and express characteristics of adequate flooring. The passive and active negligent acts and omissions of Defendants were one proximate cause of the injuries sustained by Plaintiff.

As a result of the fall Plaintiff suffered physical injuries that have necessitated surgery. As a result of Defendants negligent acts and omissions and subsequent injuries, Plaintiff seeks to recover for past and future medical expenses; wage loss (and loss of earning capacity); past and future impairment; past and future pain and sufferings/mental anguish; and past and future disfigurement.

On or about May 28, 2009, Plaintiff Holly Vastine suffered consortium damages due to the injuries suffered by her husband. As a result of the injuries suffered by her husband (said injuries caused by the negligent acts and omissions of Defendant) Plaintiff has suffered damages of \$50,000.00. Plaintiff will show that Defendant (by and through its agents) provided a work trailer

AUG. 3. 2011 11:45AM

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CRIACO & ASSOCIATES

NO. 6286

that had previously been subjected to flooding that caused the floor to be weakened and unfit for its intended use. Plaintiff's husband fell through the flooring and suffered injuries to his shoulder. As a result of the shoulder injury, Plaintiff's husband could not work or help around the house. Plaintiff has suffered economic losses along with the loss of care, comfort and support that was previously provided by her husband. These damages are due to the negligent acts and omissions of Defendant as well as the creation of a condition that Defendant knew (or should have known about).

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that Defendants be cited to appear and answer herein, and that upon final trial hereof, Plaintiff recovers from said Defendants actual damages, taxable court costs and all equitable relief to which Plaintiffs may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

CRIACO & ASSOCIATES

Adam P. Criaco SBOT 05075770

519 N. Sam Houston Pkwy. B., Suite 500

Houston, TX 77060

Telephone: (713) 663-6600 Facsimile: (713) 663-7923

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

The Hanover Insurance Company Claims Document Management Mail Station S-024 440 Lincoln Street Worcester, MA 01853

October 5, 2009

CHS, Inc. 5500 Cenex Drive, MS Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Via Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

Re:

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Hanover Policyholder:

Claimant Name:

Date of Occurrence:

Our Claim Number:

Pac-Van, Inc./Pac-Van Leasing Sales

Charles Vastine 05/28/2009

14-00214911

#### Dear Madam/Sir:

Hanover Insurance Company is the insurance carrier for Pac-Van, Inc. On 7/01/09, we received notice of the above-referenced matter, a personal injury claim, which reportedly occurred in Galveston County, Texas.

The signed Master Lease Agreement between our insured, Pac-Van, Inc., Lessor, and CHS, Inc., Lessee, is enclosed. Our insured acknowledges ownership of the trailer where Mr. Vastine fell; however, CHS, Inc. leases the property from our insured and is bound by contract terms and conditions. Specifically, we refer you to the following:

LOSS AND DAMAGE: All personal property placed or moved in the leased equipment shall be at the risk of the Lessee or owner thereof. Lessor shall not be liable for any damage to said personal property, or to the Lessee, or any other person arising from any cause whatsoever, including any act of negligence of any co-tenant or occupants of the leased equipment, or damage caused by an act of God (such as tomado, hurricane, lightning, earthquake, hail, wind, rain or snow), unless such damage is caused by the negligence or willful conduct of Lessor. Lessee also assumes and shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to the leased equipment or any part of the leased equipment from any cause whatsoever (except ordinary wear and tear) including vandalism from commencement of Rental Agreement to termination or expiration of the Rental Agreement, except to the extent that such loss or damage is caused by the negligence or willful conduct of Lessor. No loss or damage



to the leased equipment or any part thereof shall impair any obligation of the Lessee under the Rental Agreement, which shall continue in full force and effect, except to the extent it is caused by the negligence or willful conduct of Lessor or as otherwise provided in this paragraph. In the event of loss or damage of any kind whatsoever to any part of the leased equipment, except if such loss or damage is caused by the negligence or willful conduct of the Lessor, the Lessee, at the option of the Lessor, shall: (1) place the leased equipment in good repair, to the same condition as it was delivered to Lessee, ordinary wear and tear excepted, or (2) in the event the leased equipment has been destroyed, pay the Lessor the agreed upon value of the leased equipment as identified on the Rental Agreement.

INSURANCE: Lessee, at its own expense, shall insure for risks of loss or damage. Lessee must carry commercial general liability insurance insuring both Lessor and Lessee against loss. The general liability insurance amounts must not be less than \$1,000,000 bodily injury per person, \$1,000,000 bodily injury per occurrence, \$1,000,000 property damage per occurrence, and Lessor must be named as an additional insured. Lessee must carry fire, windstorm and extended coverage casualty insurance for the agreed upon value of the leased equipment and Lessor must be named as the loss payee. Lessee shall provide Lessor with a Certificate of Insurance documenting compliance with the insurance requirements as stipulated in this Master Lease Agreement. The Certificate must be received at the Lessor's Corporate Office, 2995 South Harding Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46225. The required insurance policy shall be procured with a company having an AM Best rating of no less than A-V1. Lessee shall require the insurance company providing the policy to endeavor to provide notice of any change at least 30 days prior to the effectiveness thereof.

As outlined above, Pac-Van, Inc. is not responsible for this loss. As we believe CHS, Inc. is contractually obligated to provide insurance for this loss, we are tendering the defense and indemnity of this claim to CHS, Inc. on that basis. We would respectfully request that the appropriate agent of CHS, Inc. and/or the general liability carrier for CHS, Inc. respond, in writing, to this tender within ten (10) days of the date of this letter.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at the number listed below. My office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

Terri Collins
Sr. Liability Adjuster
Phone: 504-461-4443
Fax: 508-926-1214
teacollins@hanover.com

cc: Pac-Van, Inc.
Mr. Christopher A. Wilson
MJ Insurance, Inc.

Hanover Insurance Group Liability Claims Department P.O. Box 15148 Worcester, MA 01615-0148 800-477-7661 ext 4208 (504) 461-4208 FAX: 504-469-7563 spyle@hanover.com

April 6, 2010

Mr. Jarvis Dunmore Liberty Mutual Insurance Company 2815 Forbes Avenue Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

#### CERTIFIED MAIL

RE:

Our Insured: Claim Number:

Date of Loss: Proceedings:

Pac-Van Inc. /Pac-Van Leasing & Sales

14-00214911 5/28/2009

Holly Vastine V. Pac-Van, Inc., #2009-81993/Court: 295, District Court of Harris County, Texas

Location of

Occurrence: Lessee:

Your Insured:

Your Claim Number:

Galveston County, Texas

CHS, Inc.

P413-133783-01

Dear Mr. Dunmore:

On September 26, 2008 CHS, Inc. entered into a Master Lease Agreement with Pac-Van Inc. pertaining to 12' X 60' Mobile Office. Attached is a signed copy of this lease agreement. Please note the terms of the lease agreement as specified under Lessee's Inspection & Acceptance, Care & Maintenance, Loss and Damage, Insurance and Attorney Fees and Forum Selection.

Hanover wrote to CHS, Inc. on October 5, 2009 and attached a copy of the Master Lease Agreement. At that time we advised that Pac-Van, Inc. is not responsible for this loss and CHS, Inc. is contractually obligated to provide insurance for the injuries and damages associated with this accident. Attached is a copy of this tender letter.

Hanover adjuster Terri Collins spoke to you in December 2009 about the October 5, 2009 tender letter and inquired whether Liberty Mutual on behalf of CHS, Inc. was willing to agree to defend and indemnify Pac-Van Inc. with regard to any claims that would be pursued as a result of Charles Vastine's accident and resulting injuries. At that time you advised that Liberty was reviewing this coverage matter and they would be responding to the tender in the near future.

14-00214911 Page 2 April 6, 2010

On March 5, 2010 Pac-Van Inc. was served with the above captioned litigation filed by Holly Vastine, the wife of CHS, Inc. employee Charles Vastine. As you know, Mr. Vastine is alleging he was injured when he fell through the floor of the leased trailer/Mobile Home Office while working for CHS, Inc. He has filed a workers compensation claim as a result of this alleged incident. Attached is a copy of this lawsuit for your review.

Pursuant to the terms of the Master Lease Agreement Pac-Van, Inc. is calling upon CHS, Inc. /Liberty Mutual to defend and indemnify them in this litigation. We request that an appropriate representative of Liberty Mutual on behalf of CHS, Inc. respond to this tender within the next ten (10) days of the date of this letter. If Liberty Mutual/CHS, Inc. does not agree to defend and indemnify Pac-Van, Inc. with regard to this litigation and it becomes necessary for Pac-Van Inc. to retain legal counsel and provide their own defense of this litigation then legal expenses to proceed in this manner will be included in any future breach of contract action that is pursued by Pac-Van, Inc. against CHS, Inc.

Please direct your questions or response to this tender to my attention. Your prompt response would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Susan Pyle Sr. Litigation Adjuster THE HANOVER INSURANCE COMPANY NATIONAL LIABILITY FIBLD CLAIMS MS HELMSMAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC PO BOX 95408 HOFFMAN ESTATES IL 60195-5408

Telephone:

(800) 835-6279

Fax:

(603) 334-8081

The Hanover Insurance Company Susan Pyle PO Box 15148 Worcester MA 01615



April 15, 2010

Claimant: Charles Vastine
Our Claim #:P 413-133783-01
Our Customer: Chs Inc
Date of Loss:05/28/2009
Your File #14-00214911

#### Dear Ms Pyle:

We have reviewed the tender request by Pac-Van, Inc. regarding defense and indemnification in the above referenced suit. Based on our review of Plaintiff's Original Petition and the terms of the Liberty Mutual Excess policy at issue, we have determined that the allegations outlined in the complaint filed by the claimant Holly Vastine against Pac-Van does create a potential for coverage under the Excess policy. As a threshold matter, however, please be advised that the Excess policy does not provide any defense to any entity. With respect to potential indemnity under the Excess policy, we will provide you indemnity subject to all of the terms and provisions of the Excess policy as outlined below.

Holly Vastine has filed suit against Pac-Van, Inc, in the District Court of Harris County, Texas. Vastine alleges that on may 28, 2009 she suffered consortium damages due to the injuries suffered by her husband. It is further alleged the injuries were the result of her husband falling through the floor boards of a work trailer. It is alleged the work trailer had previously been subjected to flooding that caused the floor to be weakened and unfit for its intended use. The complaint seeks compensatory damages of \$50,000.

By letter dated October 5, 2009, Hanover Insurance Company, as the insurance carrier for Pac-Van, has asserted coverage for Pac-Van as an additional insured under the Liberty Mutual liability policy issued to CHS pursuant to the terms of a Master Lease Agreement ("MLA") dated September 26, 2008, between Pac-Van (as "Lessor") and CHS (as "Lessoe"). The trailer at issue, on information and belief, had been leased by CHS from Pac-Van pursuant to the terms of the MLA, along with any applicable Rental Agreement. The particular Rental Agreement for the trailer at Issue has not been provided. Applicable provisions of the MLA are as follows:

LOSS AND DAMAGE: ... Lessor shall not be liable for any damage to said personal property, or to the Lessee, or any other person arising from any cause whatsoever, including any act of negligence of any co-tenant or occupants of the leased equipment ... unless such damage is caused by the negligence or willful conduct of Lessor.

Lessee also assumes and shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to the leased equipment or any part of the leased equipment from any cause whatsoever... except to the extent that such loss or damage is caused by the negligence or willful conduct of Lessor. No loss or damage to the leased equipment... shall impair any obligation of Lessee under the Rental Agreement... except to the extent it is caused by the negligence or willful conduct of Lessor....

INSURANCE: Lessee, at its own expense, shall insure for risks of loss or damage. Lessee must carry commercial general liability insurance insuring both Lessor and Lessee against loss. The general liability insurance amounts must not be less than \$1,000,000 bodily injury per person, \$1,000,000 bodily injury per occurrence, \$1,000,000 property damage per occurrence, and Lessor must be named as an additional insured.

ATTORNEYS FEES AND FORUM SELECTION: With respect to any claim or dispute arising under or in connection with the Master Lease Agreement or any Rental Agreement hereunder, or with respect to any proceedings to enforce this Master Lease Agreement or any Rental Agreement in connection herewith, . . . any such claim or matter may be filed and adjudicated in any state or federal court situated in Galveston County, Texas, and Lessee and Lessor hereby consent and submit to personal jurisdiction over them in any such court in Galveston, Texas.

Pac-Van is represented in the MLA to have its principal place of business in Indiana. CHS is represented in the MLA as having its business in Minneapolis. These parties selected Texas as a forum selection without expressly stating that Texas law would govern the interpretation of the MLA. However, Pac-Van conducts business in Texas, and the trailer at issue was utilized in Galveston, Texas. It is not unreasonable therefore to assume that this contract was entered into in Texas and/or with a view between the parties that Texas law would govern the contract.

The Excess Liability policy at issue in this claim, No.BB1-641-004264-028, September 1, 2008 to September 1, 2009, was issued out of the Minneapolis, Minnesota sales office to CHS, Inc. in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. The Excess policy provides per occurrence limits of \$1,000,000, subject to a self-insured retention of \$3,000,000 for propane-related incidents, and \$2,000,000 for all other incidents. Because the incident at issue in this claim is not propane related, there is an SIR of \$2,000,000 that must be satisfied prior to any policy limits being impacted.

As a threshold matter, it must be observed that the Excess policy's insuring agreement makes clear that there is no duty to defend any entity at any time. The insuring agreement states: "We WILL NOT have the duty to defend or investigate any claim or 'suit' seeking damages to which this policy may apply." See, e.g., Coverage A -Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability, 1. Insuring Agreement (e).

I am informed by counsel that the Loss and Damage paragraph of the MLA does not satisfy the Texas express negligence test. Firstly, the provision is not set out in any fashion such that it would stand apart from the other provisions of the contract. Secondly, the paragraph fails to include any requirement that CHS indemnify Pac-Van for any claim. Thirdly, the paragraph clearly reserves unto Pac-Van liability for claims arising out of Pac-Van's own negligence and willful conduct. Thus, to the extent that Hanover has reference this paragraph in reliance on contractual indemnification under the MLA, such a tender is denied.

Notwithstanding that there is no contractual liability coverage afforded under the Excess policy that would extend coverage to Pac-Van for this claim, Hanover has tendered this claim under the MLA's insurance provision, which requires CHS to maintain general liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury per person/per occurrence. CHS was to have Pac-Van named as an additional insured.

The MLA, however, does NOT obligate the CHS liability policy to be primary, non-contributory to any liability policy carried by Pac-Van.

The Excess policy contains an LG 20 19 06 05 blanket additional insured endorsement (at No. 33), which provides that any organization for whom the insured has agreed in writing to provide liability insurance is an additional insured, but only with respect to liability for "bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of the insured's work or premises or property owned by or rented to the named insured.

Vastine was injured when, working as an employee of CHS in the leased trailer, he fell through the floor of the trailer. Under the broader view, this injury thus "arose out of" the property leased by CHS from Pac-Van. CHS agreed "in writing to provide Liability insurance" to Pac-Van, thereby triggering potential additional insured status to Pac-Van under the Excess policy's blanket additional insured endorsement.

Note, however, that other provisions of this Endorsement apply to Pac-Van's tender:

The following provisions also apply:

- 1. Regardless of any provisions of any written agreement, policy of insurance, or endorsement, insurance provided to the Additional Insured is excess over the "self-insured amount" [of \$2,000,000].
- 3. Where the applicable written agreement does not specify on what basis the liability insurance will apply, this insurance is primary (subject to the "self-insured amount"), and we will share liability in excess of the "self-insured amount" with any other valid and collectible primary insurance available to the Additional Insured.
- 4. We have no duty to defend the Additional Insured.

While we have attempted to address all of the coverage considerations related to this suit, Liberty Mutual reserves all rights under applicable law and the policy. This letter should in no way be construed as a waiver or estoppel of any of the possible coverage defenses afforded by the policy or applicable law.

Sincerely,

JARVIS DUNMORE CLAIMS CASE MANAGER III

cc: CHS Inc.

ODOBES
HELMSHAR MAHAMBHEHT SERVICES LLC
MATTONAL LIABILITY FIELD CLAYMS MS
PO BOX 95408
HOFFMAN ESTATES IL 50193-3408

THE HANOVER INSURANCE COMPANY SUSAN PYLE PO BOX 15148 WORCESTER MA 01615 86/16/2010 12:13

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PAGE 01/04

## HANNA& PLAUT LLP

14-214911

Southwest Tower
211 East Seventh Street, Suite 600
Austin, Texas 78701

Talephone (512) 472-7700 Facsimile (512) 472-0205 www.harmaplaut.com

June 7, 2010

Via Certified Mail Return Receipt
Requested No. 7006 0810 0002 5874 6394

Terri Collins
Sr. Liability Adjuster
The Hanover Insurance Company
Claims Document Management
Mail Station S-024
440 Lincoln Street
Worcester, MA 01653

Re:

Hanover Policyholder:

Claimant Name: Date of Occurrence: Claim No.: Pac-Van, Inc./Pac-Van Leasing Sales

Charles Vastine 05.28.2009 14-00214911

Dear Ms. Collins:

I am writing on behalf of CHS, Inc. in response to your tender of the above-referenced matter for defense and indemnity. CHS declines your request for defense and notes that any entitlement to indemnity will be based on the terms and conditions of Liberty Mutual Policy No. EB1-641-004264-028 and will be triggered, if at all, only upon satisfaction of the \$2 million self-insured retention ("SIR") of that policy. CHS is not responsible for satisfying any portion of this SIR on Pac-Van's behalf.

#### MLA

As an initial matter, we note that the referenced "Loss and Damage" clause of the MLA is not an indemnity agreement because it does not require CHS to indemnify or hold Pac-Van harmless for loss. Instead, the clause merely states that Pac-Van will not be liable for certain losses. Similarly, the damage does not impose any obligation on CHS to defend Pac-Van against claims for these losses.

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PAGE 82/84

Terri Collina June 7, 2010 Page 2 of 3

### Insurance Coverage/Allocation of SIR

in accordance with the agreement of the parties, CHS obtained a policy of insurance with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, Policy No. EB1-641-004264-028. It is CHS's understanding that Pac-Van is an additional insured under Liberty's policy pursuant to the "Bianket Additional Insured" endorsement of the policy. That andorsement provides in pertinent part:

SECTION II-WHO IS AN INSURED is amended to include as an insured any person or organization for whom you have agreed in writing to provide liability insurance. But:

The insurance provided by this amendment:

 Applies only to "bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of (a) "your work" or (b) premises or other property owned by or rented to you.

The following provisions also apply:

- Regardless of any provision of any written agreement, policy of insurance, or endorsement, insurance provided to the Additional insured is excess over the "self-insured amount."
- 3. Where the applicable written agreement does not specify on what basis the liability insurance will apply, this insurance is primary (subject to the "self-insured amount"), and we will share liability in excess of the "self-insured amount" with any other valid and collectible primary insurance available to the Additional Insured.
- We shall have no duty to defend the Additional Insured.
- Items 4.c. and d. of the Other Insurance of Section IV will not apply to the Additional Insured.

It is our understanding that Pac-Van's policy with Hanover is a standard CGL policy. Accordingly, Hanover is solely liable for Pac-Van's defense costs and the first \$1 million of indemnity payable on Pac-Van's behalf. The Liberty policy does not provide defense coverage. Furthermore, the SIR in the Liberty policy does not constitute "other insurance" for purposes of allocating defense or indemnity costs with the Hanover policy.

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Terri Colline June 7, 2010 Page 3 of 3

### Conclusion

CHS does not have a duty to defend or indemnify Pac-Van in the suit brought by Holly Vastine, and Liberty's duty to contribute toward indemnity would only be triggered after the \$2 million SIR is satisfied for this occurrence.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

7.7

Vega Iruly yours,

Catherine I. Hame

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HANOVER INSURANCE GR

PAGE 04/04



Southwest Tower 211 East Seventh Birtet, Suite 600 Attalit, Taxas 78701



7006 0830 0002 5874 L394



Tent Collins
Sr. Liability Adjuster
The Henover Insurance Company
Claims Document Management
Mail Station 8-024
440 Lincoln Street
Worcester, MA 01853

Hannell Amilden Held

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## EXHIBIT "B"

Electronic Filing Manager

12CV2248

212th CRT

Page 1 of 3
Filed
12 October 17 P3:00
Doryn Danner Glenn
District Clerk
Galveston District

### Galveston County District Courts ELECTRONIC FILING MANAGER

**Court Information** 

Clerk:

Dixit, Shallja

Filing Detail

Status:

Official Date/Time:

Clerk Process Date:

Case/Cause Number:

Trace Number:

Style/Case Name:

Filing Type:

Sealed Document:

Jurisdiction:

Jurisdiction Type:

Court/Calendar:

Hearing Date:

Filing Type and Fee Changes Allowed?

Comments to the Filer:

Special Instructions:

Confirmation

10/17/2012 03:00:23 PM

10/17/2012 04:34:26 PM

12CV2248

ED084J017135413

Pac-Van v. CHS, Inc.

New Civil Suit (1-10 plaintiffs)

No

**Galveston County District Courts** 

District

212th Judicial District Court

Yes

S/C - 1/17/13 @ 9:00 am

#### Additional Comments:

#### Attorney & Filer Information

Attorney Name:

Attorney Email:

Bar Number:

Law Firm:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Filer Name:

Filer ID:

Filer Email:

Filer Type:

Brothers, David

tshacklett@brothers-law.com

03084300

Brothers, Sepulveda & Alvarado, PC

820 Gessner

Sulte 1075

Houston, TX 77024

713-337-0750

713-337-0760

Brothers, David

**TyanneS** 

tshacklett@brothers-law.com

Attorney

#### Case 3:12-cv-00341 Document 1 Filed on 11/20/12 in TXSD Page 46 of 51

\* Electronic Filing Manager

Page 2 of 3

Filing Parties

Name

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Roles

Brothers, David

Filer - Filing Attorney - Plaintiff Counsel

Petitioner Attorneys

Name

Roles

Brothers, David

Filer - Filing Attorney - Plaintiff Counsel

**Payment Information** 

Payment Method: Credit Card - MasterCard, Account # \*\* 5054, Expiration Date - 02/28/2013

**Filing Fees** 

County eFiling Fee

New Civil Suit (1-10 plaintiffs)

\$2.00

\$255.00

Misc. Fees

Non-Certifled Copies (1-15 pages)

Filing Fee Total: \$257.00

\$15.00

Number of Pages up to 15 (15) Number of Copies (1)

Non-Certified Copies (16 or more pages)

\$1.75

Number of Pages over 15 (7)

Number of Copies (1) Issuance of Citation

\$8.00

Number of Issuances (1)

Misc. Fee Total: \$24.75

Grand Total: \$281.75

**Document Information** 

**Number of Documents** 

6

**Filing Document** 

File Name:

PacVanPetition.pdf

**Document Description: Attachments** 

File Name:

File Name:

PacVanEx 1.pdf

**Document Description:** 

PacVanEx 2.pdf

**Document Description:** 

File Name:

PacVanEx 3.pdf

**Document Description:** 

Electronic Filing Manager

Page 3 of 3

File Name:

**Document Description:** 

PacVAnEx 4.pdf

File Name:

**Document Description:** 

PacVanCase info sheet.pdf

Status History

Status Date 10/17/2012 04:34:26 PM 10/17/2012 04:21:03 PM 10/17/2012 03:23:42 PM 10/17/2012 03:20:33 PM 10/17/2012 03:00:55 PM Status
Confirmation
Acknowledgement - Open
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# EXHIBIT "C"

### LIST OF ALL COUNSEL OF RECORD

<u>Counsel for Plaintiff Pac-Van, Inc.:</u> BROTHERS, SEPULVEDA & ALVARADO, P.C. Karen M. Alvarado David E. Brothers Two Memorial City Plaza, 820 Gessner, Suite 1075, Houston, Texas 77024 Telephone: 713.337.0750

Counsel for CHS, Inc. d/b/a CHS Cooperatives: Hanna & Plaut, LLP Catherine L. Hanna Eric S. Peabody 211 East Seventh Street, Suite 600 Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone: 512.472.7700 Facsimile: 512.472.0205

Facsimile: 713.337.0760

# EXHIBIT "D"

### INDEX OF ALL DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE COURT

- 1. Notice of Removal of Action Under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441(a) (Diversity)
- 2. True and correct copies of all pleadings, process and orders served in this action
- 3. State Court Docket Sheet
- 4. List of all Counsel of Record